GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:191
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wildlife sanctuaries and criteria for posting of trained and professional vets and medical infrastructure provided/available at each sanctuary;

(b) the number of tigers and other wild animals died of accidents in absence of proper and timely medical attention in the last 3 years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ensure appropriate medical infrastructure with trained and professional personnel at each of the wildlife sanctuary and integrate each unit with information regarding the medical facilities available around to treat sick or wounded animals and save them from avoidable deaths etc; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) There are 514 Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country. Some of the important Protected Areas in the country are having dedicated veterinary staff posted (mainly on deputation) by the concerned State Governments. In some States, veterinary staff is deployed in Zoos and also with the Forest Departments at the State level for looking after the necessities of wildlife sector in the State. Similarly, the assistance of the veterinary staff of the State Animal Husbandry Departments / Veterinary Colleges is also utilized as and when required.

(b) As per the information available, 4 tigers and 21 elephants have reportedly been killed due to train/road accidents during the last three years. However all these cannot be attributed to the lack of timely and proper medical care, as most of the deaths are instantaneous.

(c)&(d) Government of India is providing financial and technical assistance to the State/UT Governments under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes - 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant', for activities aimed at developing wildlife veterinary care−infrastructure,training vets etc.